

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
5 August 2004 (05.08.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/065625 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **C12Q 1/68**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/AU2004/000083

(22) International Filing Date: 23 January 2004 (23.01.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
2003900368 24 January 2003 (24.01.2003) AU

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ASSAY FOR DETECTING METHYLATION CHANGES IN NUCLEIC ACIDS USING AN INTERCALATING NUCLEIC ACID

(57) Abstract: A method for detecting the presence of a target nucleic acid in a sample including treating a sample containing nucleic acid with an agent that modifies unmethylated cytosine; providing to the treated sample a detector ligand in the form of an intercalating nucleic acid (INA) capable of binding to a target region of nucleic acid, and allowing sufficient time for the detector ligand to bind to the target nucleic acid; and detecting binding of the detector ligand to nucleic acid molecule in the sample to indicate the presence of the target nucleic acid.